

The National Forests in Mississippi are committed to providing safe recreational experiences for all users. Growing demands for recreational trails and places to hunt have increased use of the national forests. With increases in numbers of visitors, interactions between trail users and hunters may increase.

In response, the National Forests in Mississippi are increasing efforts to raise individual awareness by providing tips to forest visitors.



For more information on outdoor safety,
visit our regional safety page on web .
@<http://fs.fed.us/r8/outdoorsafety/woods>



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The National Forests in Mississippi, together with Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries & Parks, produced this cooperative brochure to promote safety for all forest visitors.

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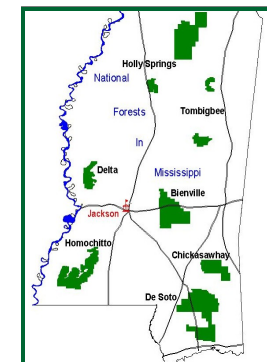


Hunting Season Safety

USDA Forest Service
National Forests in Mississippi

In cooperation with

Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries & Parks



Tips for Trail Users

Trail Users: Know local hunting seasons — Specific dates for hunting seasons vary year to year and also by type of game hunted and weapon used. Small game seasons (turkey, rabbit) stretch from fall through the end of May; deer season generally occurs October through January. Learn the regulations and hunting seasons for the areas where you will be recreating before you go. Hunting on Sundays is prohibited in some areas. See <http://home.mdwfp.com> for specific information.

Trail Users: Wear blaze orange — Wear a blaze orange hat and vest (and pack cover if backpacking), or hooded outerwear when out in fall, winter and spring. Horse riders should make or buy a brightly colored rump sheet for your horse.

Trail Users: Use Caution — Avoid wearing colors that could be mistaken for game animals—white or brown during deer seasons; red or blue during turkey seasons.

Trail Users: Be heard — Make sure you are heard before you are seen by whistling, singing, talking, etc., while on a trail. Horse riders can tie small bells to your stirrups.

Trail Users: Communicate — Conflicts between hunters and trail users seem to be relatively rare. If you meet hunters tell them your planned route. Try to keep the communication open.

Trail Users: Avoid peak hunting times — Avoid using at peak times such as the opening day of a particular hunting season or early mornings/late afternoons.



Trail Users:

- ◆ Know when hunting seasons are open
- ◆ Wear hunter orange during deer season
- ◆ Make your presence known



Hunters:

- ◆ Always positively identify your target
- ◆ Be aware that trail users may be present
- ◆ Make your presence known

Additional related information :

Leave No Trace <http://www.lnt.org/>

Respected Access <http://www.respectedaccess.org/open-access/>

Tread Lightly <http://www.treadlightly.org/>

International Hunter Education Association <http://www.ihea.com/>

Tips for Hunters

Hunters: ID your target — Be sure of your target and what is in front of and beyond it. Before you pull the trigger you must properly identify game animals. Until your target is fully visible and in good light, do not even raise your scope to see it. Use binoculars!

Hunters: Do not shoot — Do not shoot across roads, trails or waterways. These areas may be occupied by people.

Hunters: Wear blaze orange — Wear high visibility orange during appropriate hunting seasons.

Hunters: Do not use — Do not use alcohol and medications that may impair judgment before or while handling firearms.

Hunters: Educate yourself — Obey all the rules of firearm safety and insist that those around you do the same.

Hunters: Know where trails are — Trail maps can be obtained at your local ranger district office.

Hunters: Be alert for trail users and make your presence known to them — Trail users may be unfamiliar with hunting. Trail users may not be aware of hunting seasons, or that they are in or near areas open to hunting. Trail users may not be wearing blaze orange. Please use appropriate caution and communicate openly.